

**NSC BRIEFING**

**INDONESIA**

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- I. Indonesian prime minister Djuanda informed parliament last Monday that national parliamentary elections, scheduled for September 1959, are to be postponed a year.
  - A. Djuanda said the continuing rebellion in Sumatra and Celebes and transportation and communication difficulties, which have been aggravated by the rebellion, would prevent fair elections.
  - B. This decision apparently is the result of army prodding and is an important step in the army's program to check growing Communist strength. The step could hardly have been taken without Sukarno's approval.
- II. Significant Communist gains, possibly giving the party a national plurality, had been expected if elections were held next year.
  - A. The Communists won a plurality in the 1957 local elections in Java.
- III. The Communists have thus far reacted moderately to this setback, noting the "great disappointment of the people" and calling for vigorous anti-dissident action so elections can be held in 1960.
  - A. They may attempt some test of popular feeling on the issue, and will probably increase their efforts to undermine army Chief of Staff General Nasution and his followers.
- IV. Army leaders have stated privately that they are working toward a five-year postponement of elections.
  - A. They feel they need at least this much time to stabilize the country and undercut Communist influence before risking elections.